EBIO 116: FRESHMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
FALL/SPRING 20XX

Instructor:	**XXX**	**Time:**	**XXX**
Office:	**XXX**	**Location:**	**XXX**
E-mail:	**XXX@rice.edu**	**Office Hours:**	**XXX, or by appointment**

COURSE OVERVIEW: EBIO 116 is a seven-week seminar course designed to introduce prospective biology majors to exciting ecology and evolution research at Rice. Small groups will meet weekly with a graduate student or postdoctoral scholar to explore research opportunities at Rice, read a scientific paper published by Rice researchers and tour Rice research labs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: There are two main goals of this course: (1) Practice reading scientific literature, and (2) Develop familiarity with the research in ecology and evolutionary biology happening at Rice. Specifically, you will:

1. Develop skills to find, interpret, and evaluate scientific literature
2. Learn to identify and assess potential research advisors
3. Develop the confidence and skills needed to ask to join a professor's research lab

TEXTS: There is no textbook for this course. We will read the following two scientific articles, which will be made available through Canvas:

1. FULL CITATION OF RECENT ARTICLE BY A RICE EEB LAB
2. FULL CITATION OF RECENT ARTICLE CONCEPTUALLY RELATED TO ARTICLE 1

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: Letter grades will be given reflecting your performance on written homework assignments and class participation. We expect that students who attend all class meetings, positively contribute to every discussion and put a good-faith effort into every homework assignment will be able to earn an A. This is not an easy A — the homework will be challenging and time-consuming and the readings are difficult — but it is an A that should be attainable by all students who choose to put forth the effort.

ITEM	POINTS
Attendance & Participation *(100 pts/meeting)*	700
Homework 1-6 *(100 pts/assignment)*	600
TOTAL	**1300**

Attendance & Participation: To ensure productive discussion, it is critical that you are present at each of the meetings of this course. Thus, attendance is required. Should you miss a meeting due to a documented illness or emergency, you may recover some or all of the points by attending an EEB departmental seminar on your own (a schedule of seminars will be provided for you to choose from) and submitting a 1-page summary of the seminar. It is important to be on time for all class meetings and activities. Being late will negatively impact your participation grade for that session.

Homework Assignments: Upload all homework assignments to Canvas with file name "YourNameHW#.doc" by midnight on the night before the class meeting. Late homework will result in a penalty of 10% per day late. To foster an environment conducive to exploration, student homework will be evaluated not as correct or incorrect but on the basis of effort, curiosity and insight. A good-faith effort on homework requires that students be intellectually

engaged in the material and attempt to thoughtfully answer every question. When stumped by a question, students should explain in their answer where they became lost or confused. Incomplete/minimal answers, blank answer fields or non-answers (e.g., "I don't know") do not indicate significant intellectual effort and will not receive credit.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

DATE	DUE TODAY (midnight before class)	IN-CLASS TOPIC
8/22	NA	Course overview; lecture and discussion on scientific inquiry; learn tips for reading scientific literature
8/29	Read abstract, intro, and methods of *Article 1* and complete **HW1**	Discuss abstract, introduction and methods of *Article 1*; overview of Rice EEB faculty
9/5	Read results and discussion of *Article 1* and complete **HW2**	Discuss results and discussion of *Article 1*; lecture on finding a research lab at Rice to work in
9/12	Read *Article 2* and complete **HW3**	Discuss *Article 2*; prepare for lab tours
9/19	Visit the Article 1 lab website and complete **HW4**	Tour Dr. Article1's lab; research potential labs to join at Rice
9/26	Visit the instructor's lab website and complete **HW5**	Tour the instructor's (your own) lab; research potential labs to join at Rice
10/3	Peruse all faculty websites and complete **HW6**	Field trip to the HMNS Cockrell Butterfly Center (or other destination)

DISABILITY SUPPORT: If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please inform your instructor to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Allen Center. For more information visit the Rice Disability Support Services site (www.dss.rice.edu).